Council of North Indian States for Cooperation and Regional Development

6939. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJI RAO SHINDE: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:-

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 21st Annual Session of the Council of North Indian States for Cooperation and Regional Development (CONCORD) was held in New Delhi, to discuss trade ties in between the Northern States; and

(b) if so, what major decisions were taken to strengthen trade and economic developmnt of the region and what are the hurdles that come in the way of its smooth and harmonious development in the context of national economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) There was a presentation on the idea of forming a Council of North Indian States for Cooperation and Regional Development (CONCORD) at the 21st Annual Session of the Confederation of Indian Industy (CII), Northern Region held on April 4, 1995 in New Delhi.

(b) The major issues discussed in the presentation include the following:—

The basic objective of the Cooperation and Regional Development of the North Indian States initiatives is to increase employment in the region, spur larger investment, foster economic growth and promote a better quality to life for the people in the North Indian States. Some of the areas that that have been identified for promoting cooperation and deelopment are creation of a common market, interstate highways and transportation grid, port access and development, power generation and transmission, water resources management training for employment, networked tourism circuits, agroproducts distibution and cross-border industrial growth centres. For further prioritising these areas for action, the following programmes have been suggested: North Zone Common Market (NORMARK), North Zone Port Access (NORPORT), North Zone Highways and Transportation Grid (NORTRANS), North Zone Agro Products Distribution (NORAGRO), North zone Training Centres for Employment (NORTREMP), North zone Networked Tourism Circuits (NORTOUR).

IDBI assistance to M.S. Shoes Ltd.

6940. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IDBI has extended financial assistance to the newly promoted company M... Shoes Ltd.;

(b) what was the extent of financial help given to the promoters of M.S. Shoes Ltd.;

(c) whrether IDBI has nominated a director on the board of M.S. Shoes Ltd.; and

(d) if so the full details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (d) In accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of Public Financial Institutions (Obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, the information relating to individu l constituents cannot be divulged.

Reduction in tariffs on CTV components

6941. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had reduced tariffs on CTV components in the Budget for 1995-96 but the Minister of Commerce has put the CTV picture

tubes under Special Import Licence (SIL) thereby taking away the benefits from the consumers; and

(b) if so, the propriety of annuoncing such concessions which are incapable of reaching the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) Customs duty on specified electronic components, including CTV components has been reduced to 25 per cent ad valorem w.e.f. 16-3-95 as part of the Budget proposals to generally reduce costs for the electrtnic industry. A particular item is placed under SIL keeping in view the aims and objectives of the Import and Export policy followed by the Government.

(b) Does no arise in view of (a) above.

Officials permitted to travel by private Airlines

6942. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the Government officials were permitted to travel by Private Airlines while performing journeys on official tours;

(b) the date on which this facility was withdrawn by his Ministy;

(c) whether Government are aware that officials/Members/Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Settlement Commission (Income Tax & Wealth Tax), New Delhi and other benches were travelling in Private Airlines even before the date on which the facility was granted and even after the date on which the facility was withdrawn by his own Ministry; and

(d) the action Government proposes to take for such violation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) Air travel by private airlines on official tour as permitted by the Ministry of Finance vide guidelines issued on 3-12-93,

(b) This facility was withdrawn on 8-3-94.

(c) and (d) The Chairman of the Settlement Commission had travelled from Bombay to Delhi on 17-4-94 by a private airlines as he was not aware of the withdrawal of the facility on 8-3-94. The Commission is strictly following the latest instructions. As the violation was inadvertent and as the officer has already retired, no action is proposed to be taken.

Nominee Directors Representing IFCI

6943. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received suggestions that nominee Directors representing IFCI on large blue chip companies should be rotated;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is no machinery available with Government to check the declared and un-declared assets of nominee directors of IFCI on large multi national companies;

(c) if so, how Government propose to rectify this lacuna;

(d) whether controversial directions will be replaced as a first step towards corporate transparency; and

(e) steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is not the Government but financial institutions (FIs) who have equity shareholding in assisted companies. FIs such as the Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited (IFCI) themselves review the performance of their nominee directors and also take appropriate action wherever necessary.